7. (Amended) The method defined in Claim 1, wherein the controlling member has a surface layer which endures a high-temperature atmosphere caused by pouring the molten aluminum alloy, wherein the surface layer is comprised of elements or compounds selected from the group consisting of Ti, TiN, TiC, CrN and BN.

9. (Amended) The method defined in [Claims 1 or 8] Claim 1, wherein compressed gas is supplied to the pipe during pouring of the molten aluminum alloy.

10. (Amended) The method defined in [Claims 1 or 8] Claim 1, wherein a plug is attached to an open end of the pipe.

Add following claims 11-16:

--11. The method defined in Claim 8, wherein compressed gas is supplied to the pipe during pouring of the molten aluminum alloy.

12. The method defined in Claim 9, wherein the compressed gas is a cool gas.

13. The method defined in Claim 12, wherein the cool gas is an inert gas.

14. The method defined in Claim 11, wherein the compressed gas is a cool gas.

15. The method defined in Claim 14, wherein the cool gas is an inert gas.

16. The method defined in Claim 8, wherein a plug is attached to an open end of the pipe.--